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Solid Waste



EPA

Environmental Impact Statement

Criteria for Classification of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Practices



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
CRITERIA FOR CLASSIFICATION
OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES AND PRACTICES

This EIS (SW-82) FOR THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT,
SUBTITLE D, SECTION 4004, AND THE CLEAN WATER ACT, SECTION 405,
WAS PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE


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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
CRITERIA FOR
CLASSIFICATION OF SOLID WASTE
DISPOSAL FACILITIES AND PRACTICES

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Solid Waste

1. Type of Action

Administrative Action (Regulatory)

1. Brief Description of Action

On September 13, 1979, EPA published in the Federal Register, "Criteria for Classification of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Practices" (44 Federal Reg. 53438). That publication included both final and interim final rules. The action prescribes classifying solid waste disposal facilities according to their probability of causing adverse impacts on health and the environment. The regulations have been issued under authority of the Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94-580), and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended by the Clean Water Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 95-217).

3. Summary of Beneficial and Adverse Environmental Impacts

a. In general, implementation of the criteria will result in significant improvements in environmental quality, with beneficial impacts on: floodplains, endangered and threatened species, surface water (including wetlands), ground water, air quality, soil quality (amount of cadmium and other contaminants entering the food chain), disease, and public health and safety.

b. The general effects of the criteria will be threefold:

- Many existing facilities (such as landfills, land-spreading operations, and surface impoundments) will close or be forced to close, because of the cost or physical impossibility of compliance;
- Many other existing facilities will upgrade their operations in conformance with a State compliance schedule and will reduce to acceptable levels or eliminate the adverse environmental effects of their operations;
- New and expanded solid waste disposal facilities, resulting from previous closures/consolidations and new demands, will be located, designed, and operated in such a way as to ensure a reasonable probability of protecting health, safety and environmental quality.

c. In some cases where existing facilities are closed or upgraded, the environmental adverse effects of past operations (for example, caused by location in wetlands/floodplains/critical habitats; leachate and gas generation, and migration; and heavy metal application to land) may still continue for some time into the future.

d. Bringing all solid-waste disposal facilities into compliance with the criteria will increase the cost of landfilling, land-spreading, and surface impoundment operations. An annualized cost of approximately \$5.01 billion per year will be needed to bring all sites into compliance. Of this cost, \$0.7 billion per year will be necessary to bring sites into compliance with existing State regulations (State-standard-induced costs). The remaining \$1.1 billion per year will result directly from the criteria where the criteria are more stringent than existing State regulations (Federally induced costs).

4. Alternatives Considered

- a. Final Action*
- b. Less Restrictive Regulations
- c. More Restrictive Regulations

5. Federal, State, and Local Agencies from which Written
Comments Have Been Received

The proposed regulation was distributed to thousands of individuals and organizations representing all sectors of our society. The draft EIS was also distributed to a diverse audience. Comments were received from organizations including, but not limited to, the following:

Federal Agencies

Department of Energy
Department of HHS
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Commerce

State Governments

State of Kentucky, Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Resources
State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State of New Jersey, Department of the Public Advocate
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
University of Wisconsin, Cooperative Extension Programs
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Washington State, Department of Ecology

* For simplicity, all final and interim final rules promulgated in the Federal Register on September 13, 1979 (44 Federal Reg. 33408) are identified in this EIS as "final" regulations. However, it should be noted that the criteria for Application to Land for the Production of Food-Chain Crops and Disease-Sewage Sludge and Septic Tank Pumpings (under Section 257.3-5 and 257.3-6(b), respectively) are of an interim final status.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Virgin Islands Government, Division of Solid Waste
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Indiana State Board of Health
Texas Department of Health

Local Government

Metropolitan Sewerage District of the County of Milwaukee
Weld Co., Colorado, Office of Board of County Commissioners
The Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago

Solid Waste Management Professional Groups and Industries

National Solid Wastes Management Association
Browning - Ferris Industries, Inc.
Waste Management, Inc.
John Sexton Contractors

Professional Associations and Companies

Professional Engineers In Private Practice
American Consulting Engineers' Council

Environmental, Health, and Citizens Groups

Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Action Foundation
League of Women Voters of the U.S.

Trade Associations

American Petroleum Institute
National Food Processors Association

Utilities

Edison Electric Institute
Pennsylvania Power & Light Company
Public Service Indiana

Consultants

Berding-Leeson Associates
Kals, Hartrodt & Ross
Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.
Pilkiod and Anderson
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

Other Industries

Dow Chemical U.S.A.
General Portland, Inc.

e. Copies of the Final EIS

Copies of the Final EIS can be obtained by contacting:

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